

# Noted Lawyer Attacks CIA's Attackers

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BRIDGEWATER—James B. Donovan, former legal counsel for the World War II Office of

Strategic Services (OSS), last night defended the role of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) against its domestic critics.

Donovan is a man who has moved easily among the "movers and the shakers" of the last quarter of a century as a lawyer and educator and now president of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Last night he paused to reflect on what he called "the action and the passion" of his times.

## March or Loman?

Bearing some resemblance to Frederick March as Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman," Donovan was guest speaker at the Realtors-Lawyers-Bankers Night sponsored at the Far Hills Inn by the Somerset County Board of Realtors.

Addressing a largely conservative, middle-class crowd of some 200 real estate salesmen, lawyers and bankers, described by some guests as "the largest in the organization's history," Donovan offered the "Private Reflections of a Public Man."

A large part of his address was devoted to an outline of the meaning and necessity of strategic intelligence and the role of the CIA as an intelligence-gathering unit.

"Strategic intelligence is not only one of the least understood things in the United States, but I am appalled at the prevailing criticism of the CIA," said Donovan.

Citing the American disaster at Pearl Harbor in December 1941 as "a dramatic failure of intelligence," Donovan said the CIA now gathers the information that will prevent such mistakes in the future.

## Harvard Law Grad

In addition to Navy service in World War II, Donovan, a Harvard law graduate, was on the legal staff of Dr. Vannevar Bush and the Office of Scientific Research and Development, which officially wed the scientific community to the wartime need for weapons development.

Among other duties, he was responsible for solving the legal problems involved in withdrawing land in New Mexico from the public reserve for use as an atomic bomb development and test site.



JAMES B. DONOVAN

Donovan said the United States must have knowledge of other nations' intentions and also counter enemy attempts to gather information about this country. "For centuries the United States was the only country without a central intelligence agency," said Donovan. He said while the entire academic community was involved in intelligence in World War II, the same community now is attacking the CIA. "This is, in my judgment, sheer nonsense," said Donovan.

"The principle that the United States should have the finest intelligence network available should not be disputed, in my estimation."

## Defended Abel

Donovan was named to defend Col. Rudolf I. Abel, head of the Soviet intelligence network in the U.S., and later arranged for Abel's return to Russia in exchange for U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers and an American student accused of anti-Soviet activities, Frederic L. Bryon.

When Abel was convicted, Donovan argued against his execution on the grounds that the Russians might capture an American spy some day and be inclined to show leniency.

Donovan also was instrumental in the exchange of 9,700 anti-Castro Cubans and Americans captured during the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion after arranging with a friend and others in the pharmaceutical business for shipment of medi-

cal supplies to Cuba in trade for the prisoners.

Donovan received enthusiastic applause from the audience when he threw an overt jab at the press by recalling that, contrary to reports, Bobby Kennedy did not "twist the arms" of the drug companies to force them to cooperate in the prisoner exchange.

"There are things that at times you don't learn from our distinguished press," said Donovan.

## 'Don't Lower Standards'

Reflecting on his brief tenure as president of the New York City Board of Education, during which he opposed a concept of decentralization that would vest control in neighborhood schools, Donovan said. "There is a very real danger today of disintegration in the system if the standards are lowered."

It was clear, however, that Donovan is most at home in the practice of his primary profession, the law. "The profession of law can form extraordinary opportunities to participate in what Oliver Wendell Holmes called 'the action and the passion of one's time'."